

NEWS RELEASE

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North Dakota Health-Care Providers Receive Immunization Awards

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health has announced its annual immunization rate awards, according to Tatia Hardy with the North Dakota Department of Health's Immunization Program. Providers will be recognized at the statewide immunization conference on Aug. 24 and 25, 2010.

Each year, the Department of Health conducts quality assurance visits to approximately 100 North Dakota public and private health-care providers. For providers with more than 10 children as patients, one component of the visit includes the assessment of immunization rates for five routinely recommended vaccines. The five vaccines on which the awards are based protect against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough; measles, mumps and rubella; hepatitis B; polio and chickenpox.

In 2009, of the 57 providers whose immunization rates were assessed, only the following seven achieved a rate of 85 percent or better for five recommended vaccines for children younger than 2. (It is important to note that not all providers in the state are assessed each year.)

- Hettinger Clinic – Hettinger
- UND Center for Family Medicine – Bismarck
- Southeast Medical Center – Oakes
- Altru Pediatrics – Grand Forks
- Meritcare Broadway Children's Southwest – Fargo
- Q & R Family Practice – Bismarck
- Cavalier County Health Department – Langdon

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“Making sure the children of North Dakota are vaccinated is one of the most important ways we can help them grow up healthy and strong,” said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. “The award recipients should be extremely proud of their accomplishment and dedication to the health of all North Dakotans.”

For more information, contact Tatia Hardy, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2035 or tahardy@nd.gov.

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